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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 12:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a 40 year old computer professional of over 20 years I've worked at AT&T, Bell Laboratories, Sun Microsystems, Silicon Graphics, Broadcom, and some other smaller companies in Atlanta, New Jersey, and Silicon Valley. I think I have a reasonable understanding of the basics of the marketplace in which Microsoft competes. I've seen the business practices of Microsoft first hand many times over the years.

When the DOJ started their anti-trust case against Microsoft I said "This will be yet another slap on the wrist."
So here we are several years later, Microsoft has been convicted of (1) being a monopoly and (2) abusing their monopoly status. And what happens? The DOJ Sells us Out.

"Us" are the consumers, the purchasers of software and computers and the users of the Internet. The DOJ demonstrated that a multi-billion dollar corporation is above the law. The DOJ made a mockery of our Anti-Trust laws.

I am outraged by this and very upset with the DOJ and the Bush Administration for failing to fulfill their legal requirements and selling out to corporate interests.

Microsoft does very little "innovation". Microsoft is a Marketing company, an exceptionally good one, that intimidates and bullies and takes advantage of its monopoly status to DECREASE COMPETITION. This is what anti-trust laws were made to correct.

"The [DOJ], led by antitrust chief Charles James, contends the settlement will eliminate Microsoft's monopoly abuse and restore competition in the marketplace". Hello? Earth to Mr James. This settlement is a sell out and will have practically no impact on Microsoft's practices other than to *encourage* them to abuse their monopoly further since they clearly can get away with it. This settlement was written by Microsoft, what else needs to be said?

This settlement is a slap on the wrist. Just like the previous slaps on the wrist that various courts have ruled on against Microsoft. They didn't make a bit of difference, neither will this. This is obvious. It doesn't take an advanced degree to understand this.

This DOJ action reinforces the publics increasing critical

perception of our higher courts as a place where large corporations are except from the laws.

I strongly urge Judge Kollar-Kotelly to throw out this settlement because it is useless. History will judge.

Sincerely,

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